

Serial No.: 09/682,770

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Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The gracious allowance of claim 3 is further noted and appreciated by the Applicants.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-2, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aramaki '672 in view of Cittleman '372.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend on the allowed claim 3.

Claim 7 depends on claim 4. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 7 are now likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of claims 4 and 7 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aramaki, Cittleman and further in view of Wheat et al '504.

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Dependent claims 5 and 6 depend on claim 4, which the Applicants have argued that it is now allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6 are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of claims 5 and 6 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e. claims 4-7, are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action, together with the passage to issuance of allowed claim 3, is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

In the event that the present invention is not in a condition for allowance for any other reason, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.



Respectfully submitted,

Randy W. Tung
Reg. No. 31,311